



AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

How much does Wannsee matter?

The 20 January marks the 80th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference, which has often been considered one of the decisive moments in the history of the Final Solution.



The Villa at Wannsee

The Wannsee Conference was significant for a number of reasons. First, because of who was there. Fifteen senior Nazi government officials and SS leaders, met in a lakeside villa in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee, in order 'to make all necessary organisational and technical preparations for a comprehensive solution of the Jewish question.' Those present included Heydrich, Eichmann, Heinrich Müller, a senior figure in the SS and Otto Hofmann, Head of the SS Race and Settlement Main Office.

Because of this, many historians saw the Wannsee Conference as a symbol of the bureaucratic nature of the Nazi state and of the Final Solution. This wasn't just a handful of individuals. Between them, they represented the Foreign Office, the Reich Ministries of the Interior and Justice, the State Chancellery and the Reich Chancellery, the civil occupation authorities in Poland and the Soviet Union and, crucially, the SS.

Second, Holocaust historians saw the

timing of the conference as crucial. There is widespread agreement that the crucial decisions that led to the Holocaust were taken between the summer and autumn of 1941, after the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, and early 1942, when the deportations to Belzec and Treblinka began. The Wannsee Conference in January 1942 fitted this timetable perfectly and it is no coincidence that the two best books on Wannsee are subtitled, *Wannsee and the Final Solution* and *The Road to the Final Solution* respectively.

Thirdly, Eichmann's notes seem to indicate that the Conference was about exterminating the Jews. As the historian Richard J Evans writes in *The Third Reich at War*, 'Almost all of the men round the table had at some time either given direct orders for Jews to be killed... or created conditions in the ghettos that they knew to be fatal to many of their inhabitants. So they had no problems in planning genocide.'

Continued on page 2

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Despite continued uncertainty around physical events we begin 2022 with a very busy schedule, with our dedicated memorial service and 40 individual tree plantings scheduled around Holocaust Memorial Day.

We also have a special feature on the Kitchener Camp in Kent, timed to coincide with the announcement that the Kitchener Descendants Group is joining the AJR as a Special Interest Group.

Last but not least is a profile of our new Chairman, Mike Karp, who is delighted to be taking the helm at what he feels is a critical time in the AJR's history.

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Please note that the views expressed throughout this publication are not necessarily the views of the AJR.

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How much does Wannsee matter? (cont.)

Finally, and perhaps most important of all, in March 1947, collecting information for the Nuremberg trials, the staff of the US prosecutor found the only surviving copy of the minutes of the Wannsee Conference. What has frustrated historians for more than 75 years is the lack of key documentation. Crucial papers had been destroyed. Too often there is no paper trail confirming who gave the crucial orders. That's why these few typescript pages from Wannsee matter so much.

More recently, however, historians have changed their view of the importance of the Wannsee Conference and of the nature of the Holocaust itself. They have shifted their focus from a totalitarian state where bureaucratic functionaries followed orders from the centre to a state in which different groups fought to decide who should make the key decisions about the Jewish question. Far from being a smooth, well-oiled machine, decision-making in Nazi Germany was improvised, often chaotic. There had been frequent arguments between senior Nazi figures as to who should have control over the 'Jewish question', and Heydrich wanted to use Wannsee to assert once and for all the authority of the SS. The brilliant TV drama, *Conspiracy* (2001), starring Kenneth Branagh as Heydrich and Stanley Tucci as Eichmann, caught this mood of rivalry perfectly.

Significantly, the leading Nazis were not at Wannsee. No Hitler, Himmler, Göring or Goebbels, all of whom attended other crucial meetings between 1941 and 1942. As Peter Longerich points out in his new book, *Wannsee* (2021), 'It is particularly striking that none of the higher SS and Police Leaders were summoned to attend; yet these were Himmler's representatives on the ground in the various regions, who ... had played a decisive role in the preceding months in the mass murders in the Soviet Union, the first deportations and the measures to extend the 'final solution' to Polish territory.' These were the actual organisers of the deportations and mass murders', so why weren't they there?

Does this explain why some of the best recent histories of the Final Solution do not give much attention to Wannsee? In his three-volume history of The Third Reich (2003-8), Richard J. Evans dedicates just seven pages to the Wannsee Conference.

Christopher Browning's acclaimed book, *The Origins of the Final Solution* (2004) manages only ten pages on the conference. In his 750-page book, *Hitler's Empire* (2008), Mark Mazower makes just six passing references to Wannsee. In Timothy Snyder's books, *Bloodlands* (2010) and *Black Earth* (2015) there is just one reference to Wannsee. In his thousand-page book, *Final Solution* (2016), David Cesarani devotes only five pages to Wannsee. If Wannsee mattered so much, why have the historians apparently lost interest?

More interesting still, they point out a number of puzzling features of the meeting. It was much less straightforward than was previously thought. Heydrich, writes Cesarani, did not, it seems, connect the plans announced at Wannsee with mass killing vans 'already under way in Chelmno' or the extermination camp at Belzec already 'under construction.' 'In actuality,' he goes on, 'none of the killing sites that took shape over the following months was suited to the purposes laid out by the man directing the 'final solution. Nor were many resources devoted to preparing for such a gargantuan enterprise.' Far from being the smooth, totalitarian machine described by Bracher, Hannah Arendt and Zygmunt Bauman, the final solution 'was ill-planned, underfunded, and carried through haphazardly at breakneck speed,' Cesarani concludes.

More intriguing still, the Shoah by Bullets was well under way before Heydrich called his meeting. Regional authorities in Riga and Minsk had already begun carrying out or preparing for mass murders of local Jews in the east. In October 1941, as part of the planned expansion of the Auschwitz complex, there were discussions about building a larger crematorium complex. At the beginning of November, work started on the construction of a camp at Belzec. Hundreds of thousands of Jews had already been killed before the Wannsee Conference took place.

Finally, was there one single decision which led to the Holocaust? And was that decision made at Wannsee? Or was there a series of decisions, made over a period of time, some ordered from on high, others improvised on the eastern front or in Poland by local administrators or SS officials? In his book, *The Villa, The Lake, The Meeting* (2002), Mark Roseman writes, 'the evidence does not support the idea that there was one single clear-cut order to murder

all Jews.' Reviewing Peter Longerich's book, *Holocaust* (2010) in *The New York Review of Books*, Timothy Snyder, the author of *Bloodlands*, wrote, 'Historians of Germany have pushed the date of the crucial decision to eliminate all Jews later and later, until it seems that it could go no further. They debate whether the critical moment was June 1941 (which few now believe), or October 1941, or December 1941. Longerich calmly pushes through late 1941 and January 1942, the month of the Wannsee Conference, without recording a moment from which the Holocaust as total extermination was inevitable. He believes that there was in fact no crucial moment when Hitler decided, or communicated his decision, to kill all Jews under German control. In his view, "we should abandon the notion that it is historically meaningful to try to filter the wealth of available historical material and pick out a single decision" that led to the Holocaust.'

How much does Wannsee matter? It depends on what you think defines the Holocaust, how much the Shoah by Bullets mattered compared to the Shoah by Gas and what kind of state you think Nazi Germany was.

David Herman

On Thursday 20 January @4pm David Herman will be interviewing leading historian Sir Richard Evans about the Wannsee Conference.

<https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83338045726>

CONDOLENCES

Thank you to everyone who has written to express their condolences at the recent passing of our Head of Volunteers & Community Services, Carol Hart.

The volume of messages we have received has been astounding and is testament to the high regard in which Carol was held both within and outside our organisation.

Carol's obituary, written by Michael Newman, appears on page 18 and we are currently compiling a book of condolence messages which we will pass on to Carol's family in due course. Please email any message to karenmarkham@ajr.org.uk

INTRODUCING OUR NEW CHAIR

Last month's issue featured a farewell message from our outgoing Chairman, Andrew Kaufman. This month we are delighted to introduce you to our new Chairman, Mike Karp, who was elected in December

Like many of our second generation members, Mike Karp grew up knowing very little of his family's background. His father didn't talk about his family members who had been murdered in the Holocaust, his mother simply couldn't talk about her family. Nevertheless their European heritage was part of young Mike's everyday life. Every Saturday he used to have lunch at The Dorice with his parents after his mum had had her hair done nearby, before buying continental chocolates to take home.

Mike's father grew up in Lodz and came to Britain as part of a platoon of Jewish soldiers who then transferred to the British Army after experiencing terrible antisemitism. Naturalised after the war, he was a proud Brit for the rest of his life. His wife, Mike's mother, came via Kindertransport from Vienna, spending time in both Southport and Manchester. During the war she learned to drive an RAF truck which, according to Mike, influenced her driving style for the rest of her life. Her own father had died young while Mike's three other grandparents were all murdered by the Nazis.

Despite their traumatic histories Mike's parents created a very warm, loving and secure home for their children. Having had limited education themselves, they also invested in educating their children and Mike remembers the day his father drove him up to Cambridge as one of his proudest moments.

Mike spent his entire business career at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), being a long-serving partner before taking early retirement at the age of 58. Passionate about promoting the refugee voice, he is a longstanding trustee of the Holocaust



Mike Karp

Educational Trust and Westminster Academy and also serves as Treasurer of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

His accession to the Chair of AJR comes at an important moment in the Association's development, and he pays great tribute to his predecessor, Andrew Kaufman MBE, for the immense contribution he made during his tenure. This month, for the first time, the number of our next generation members has surpassed the number of first generation Holocaust survivors.

Mike said, "It is a huge honour and privilege to become Chairman of the AJR at this critical time in our history. While our over-riding priority and focus will always remain the welfare of the refugees and survivors, the AJR will continue to play a leading role as a benefactor of Holocaust education programmes and projects. We are also stepping up our efforts to engage with the next generations."

The accountant in him is particularly keen to see the AJR focusing its resources on activities where it can have the most impact, complementing instead of competing with programmes delivered by other agencies in this sphere. Mike believes that the AJR has a unique role to play in demonstrating the massive contribution that refugees can make, and that there are a huge number of people

out there who could engage in these activities.

"There are lots of players in the field of Holocaust memorialisation and education and we must avoid being too insular," he explains. "We need to share our resources and collectively reach out to a much wider audience, especially those outside the Jewish faith. The important message here is that it might start with the Jews but it never finishes with us – just as six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust but a total of sixty million people died during the war."

Asked how being second generation has affected him personally, Mike simply says that he feels lucky to have had two loving parents, a wonderful education and a fulfilling career. "I know that some of my peers continue to experience severe levels of trauma, and I feel for them," he explains. "I remember reading Helen Epstein's *Children of the Holocaust* not long after it was first published, and being able to identify with something in each of the testimonies it contains. But I personally feel inspired by my heritage and my parents, and am keen to engage with it as a force for greater good."

Married to Jackie for 41 years, Mike has two adult daughters and four grandchildren and is a keen golfer and lifelong West Ham football and England cricket supporter. He is passionate about making a difference, still living by the PwC mantra that one should try to leave an organisation in an even better place than when one joined it. In this he identifies closely with AJR's philosophy of celebrating the incredible contribution that Jewish refugees have made to every walk of British life, despite the circumstances that brought them here.

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THE INNSBRUCK CONNECTION

When author Meriel Schindler became a 'Next Generations' member of the AJR, she could not have dreamt that she would meet a brother and sister who remembered visiting the Café Schindler in Innsbruck as children. This famed café belonged to Meriel's family before being requisitioned by the Nazis, and it is central to her 2021 memoir, *The Lost Café Schindler*.

At a reception to celebrate the 80th anniversary of The AJR hosted by Ambassador Michael Zimmerman at the Austrian Embassy in London on 1 December, Meriel met AJR members Ruth Jacobs and Harry Heber, siblings born in Innsbruck. Harry told Meriel, "The café was often frequented by our parents and their friends." Ruth, 93, remembers going to the café herself as a ten-year old child but thinks that her younger brother Harry (now 90-years-old) might have stayed at home "because he wasn't old enough to



Harry Heber, Ruth Jacobs, Meriel Schindler



Edmund de Waal interviewed by Dr Bea Lewkowicz for AJR Next Generations Refugee Voices

go." Ruth and Harry came to the UK on a Kindertransport in December 1938. Meriel said: 'It was truly an honour to meet Ruth and Harry. I can well imagine Ruth at the Café Schindler seated on a banquette and tucking into the Sachertorte she remembers so well.'

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg lit the Chanukah candles and AJR Chief Executive Michael Newman commented later, "Singing *Mo'az Tzur* in the Austrian embassy will live long in the memory, as will the generous hospitality of the Austrian Ambassador this evening."

The words of Edmund de Waal

Guest of honour at the Austrian Embassy celebration was author and artist Edmund de Waal who spoke movingly about being the child of a refugee from Vienna (his 93-year-old father was sadly not able to attend himself) and ultimately about books, a subject about which he feels most comfortable talking. Before the reception, Edmund gave his testimony to AJR's Next Generations Refugee Voices project.

...on being the son of an Austrian Jewish refugee who became an Anglican priest:

"It's pretty odd to hear your father with a strong, strong accent, preaching in a cathedral with an enormous rolling R-- Rrrrr, as if he's just walked out of a Viennese coffee house.

...on inheriting objects and documents from relatives who were murdered in the Holocaust:

"Whether you have just one object or a

palace full of objects, or whether you have absolute silence, you are not alone in this experience of inheriting loss, of inheriting the loss of a connection, of a culture, of a neighbourhood, of the wealth of experience that comes from a family that can't stay still. You are not alone."

...on his decision to loan the family archive to the Jewish Museum in Vienna:

"As a parent now - my children are in their 20s - there's this great, strong feeling that you don't want to pass on trauma. My dad didn't want to do it, so he was silent. Part of me wants to pass down our archive because it's full of beautiful things, but it's also full of absolutely heart-breaking letters and questions about where is everyone."

...on creating his installation, the Library of Exile:

"The toxic hostility to refugees continues, most recently in response to the horrific death of so many in the English Channel.

I just thought, what would it be to bring together all the books in the world written by people who were forced into exile because of their faith, because of their gender, because of their political beliefs, so I made this library: 2000 books, 90 languages."

...on applying for Austrian citizenship:

"I am finding it difficult to fill in the form because I spent so many years looking at really painful forms in Vienna, forms from attempts to escape from Vienna, forms from the Gestapo, and from all the agencies who took over every single aspect of my family's life. Death certificates and the forms from the synagogues where my grandparents' names are crossed out and renamed Sarah and Israel....I will apply for my citizenship, but I am finding it really painful."

Edmund de Waal's full interview with Dr Bea Lewkowicz can be watched on www.ajrrefugeevoices.org.uk

LETTER FROM ISRAEL

BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



SAVING THE MUSIC PROGRAMME



When I first arrived in Israel, in the early 1960s, there was no TV and only one radio programme. In

England the radio had played an important part in my and my family's life, and one of my first thoughts when I had some time to myself was to listen to the radio for information and solace. My knowledge of Hebrew was minimal at best, but I enjoyed the Israeli songs and the occasional broadcasts in English for the immigrant population. One Shabbat morning my ear caught what I inferred was some kind of music quiz, and so one of the first words I learned in Hebrew was the word for composer (*malkhin*), and I gradually began to try to answer those questions I could understand (answers had to be sent in on a postcard). After several attempts I must have got it right, because a little while later an L.P. (long-playing) record arrived in the post.

With the passing years the Israel radio became more diversified, catering to different audiences. Live performances of concerts by various Israeli orchestras were also broadcast. Whereas in the past the time allotted to classical music was limited to an hour or two a day, this gradually expanded, and one fine day Israel's music-loving audience was treated to a programme dedicated solely to classical

music. At first the broadcasts ended at ten o'clock at night, but at a later stage this was extended to last all through the night (and eventually this segment was taken over by a computerised compilation of recordings).

Those were the days! The producers and announcers became household names, almost friends, whose tastes and interests coincided with my own, and also, presumably, with those of that segment of Israel's population who enjoyed listening to classical music. We took it for granted that those knowledgeable people knew which performances were best suited for our daily consumption, and we found ourselves in the fortunate position of being surrounded by music at all times. I know that it is considered boorish to have music as a background to other activities, but in my particular case it was a godsend, enabling me to undertake my daily tasks at home and at the typewriter (and later computer) in a golden haze of glorious notes.

But then someone somewhere decided that change was needed. The much-loved Israel Broadcasting Association was disbanded (some say this was politically-motivated), many of the familiar names and individuals vanished and a general shake-up of the tried and tested programming took place. Many new programmes were introduced, but it was a relief to find that the classical music programme could continue, albeit with set hours devoted to jazz and oriental music.

Suddenly, a few months ago, a more radical change emerged. Instead of playing a whole

symphony or concerto, only one movement or part of a concerto was broadcast. I know that this has been endemic in foreign radio programmes, but it was never done in Israel. The music-loving public reacted with rage and disbelief, and the readers' letters section of the leading daily newspaper, Haaretz, was flooded with letters protesting the new policy, deriding it as 'infantile,' 'an insult to one's intelligence,' and 'a general dumbing-down' of the programme which had become an institution for the listening public. In addition, new announcers were brought in, who did not appear to be particularly knowledgeable about music, having difficulty pronouncing names and often displaying gross ignorance about the music being broadcast (and having a general tendency to talk about irrelevant subjects, such as the weather and traffic).

The authorities were not slow to react. Articles appeared in the paper denigrating the 'elitism,' obstinacy and 'exclusivism' of the irate listeners. It was even claimed that the listeners belonged to an older generation that was on its way out. But still the letters of protest continued to be published on an almost daily basis, indicating that someone on the editorial board of Haaretz was in agreement with the readers.

Some people, myself included, claimed that the idea behind the change was to attract new, possibly young, listeners, and so it was inevitable that the intellectual level of the programmes had to be toned down. I doubt that the desired result was achieved, and as yet no listener figures have been published.

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To submit a letter please email editorial@ajr.org.uk. Please note that the Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence submitted for publication and respectfully points out that the views expressed in the letters published are not necessarily the views of the AJR.

WELCOMING THE SECOND GENERATION

Rather belatedly I am writing to warmly welcome the AJR's Next Generations section. Interestingly, the AJR website mentions that as of 1 March 2021, 44% of AJR members are 'Next Generations'. May I suggest that it might be very useful for the designated sub-committee set up to lead Next Generations to include 'ordinary' AJR Next Generation members? Not just those who are AJR trustees and employees. Including 'ordinary' representatives from the Next Generations would give them a voice and give the AJR a chance to really know what we at the grassroots are thinking. Lastly, but very importantly, 'ordinary member' inclusion would demonstrate AJR's openness and transparency.

Charlotte Balazs, High Barnet, Herts

IMPOSSIBLE TO DENY

Peter Phillips letter in your December issue evokes our own escape from Vienna in September 1938.

My father was a dentist in Vienna. He was in practice there from 1929. My father had much to lose and was in denial until one day he was warned by one of his patients to disappear as the gestapo were rounding up Jewish men. When, on his return, he saw my mother scrubbing the pavement watched by the SA brownshirts and laughing as neighbours looked on, he knew it was time to flee.

We also were lucky, because at that time it was still the policy of Eichmann to allow Jews out if they had the right papers. My father was able to procure tourist visas to Australia, sailing from Southampton. We flew to Croydon from Düsseldorf. I, aged

six, then caught whooping cough, making it impossible for us to continue our journey as planned, and we were allowed to remain in England. With the advent of war, my father was considered an enemy alien, and was interned.

The rest is history.

Emil Landes, Highgate

TOO MUCH SINGING.....

I much enjoyed the *Finchleystrasse* article in December.

My late, great friend Herbert Samuel and I were Barmitzvah at Belsize Square Synagogue early in 1945 by Rabbi Salzberger and Cantor Davidsohn. I remember Rabbi Salzberger as a quiet, charming and learned man, much loved by all his congregation. Cantor Davidsohn, he of the flowing white hair, was much more flamboyant and used to embellish the Shabbat Service with his beautiful, but very extensive singing (I believe he had trained as an opera singer). Our fathers were in favour of a not too long Barmitvah Service. Whilst both fathers (Stefan Demuth and Adolf Samuel) were founder members of the Synagogue, they were less keen on extensive, lengthy musical embellishment.

I remember them sometime before the service going up to the Rabbi with the plea "Please Rabbi - if we pay just a little more, do you think you could persuade Cantor Davidsohn to sing just a little less?" I am afraid I do not remember the reply but it was a lovely and memorable service.

Walter Demuth, London SW13

REFUGEE OR SURVIVOR?

In your September issue I wrote asking readers help me answer a question posed by one of my granddaughters – am I a refugee or a survivor? Thank you, Tony Grenville, for giving me a definitive answer in the December issue. Perhaps your Oxford college, Christchurch, were better teachers of logic than my Oxford college, Wadham? Having come to England with

my parents before World War Two I was a refugee. We were fleeing from the Nazis. Had, however, we arrived after the war had already started we would have been survivors. We would have survived Nazi rule. But wait! Hitler had ruled Germany since 1933 and the Germans had annexed Austria in 1938. Surely, then, most AJR refugees coming to these shores can claim to be survivors as well as refugees? I have come to the conclusion that I am both a refugee and a survivor, and that is what I shall tell my granddaughter.

Peter Phillips, Loudwater, Herts

LOOKING FOR?

BUCHAREST/ROMANIA

Second-generation survivor Gabriella Braun is writing a novel that begins with her family history. As her information is patchy she would like to hear from anyone who spent the war in Bucharest/Romania.

g.braun@workingwell.uk.com

MARINE TRUST SHARES

In 1936 John Martin's late father bought shares in Marine Trust Ltd for the building of the new port in Tel Aviv. In 1960 they wrote that no dividends were paid, and again in 2005. He then applied to the Holocaust Victims Assets Restitution (claim No.RE13295). Having just re-discovered this paperwork he now finds that they are no longer in existence; does anyone have any suggestions as to what he could do next?

johnwmartins1@hotmail.co.uk

DR. CLARA FRIEDHEIM

Cologne lawyer Lukas Pieplow is working on a review essay concerning the dissertation written by Dr. Clara Friedheim (born: 05.12.1892) who lived in Harrogate, Yorkshire. He is seeking her descendants or those of her sister, Edith.

pieplow.lukas@netcologne.de



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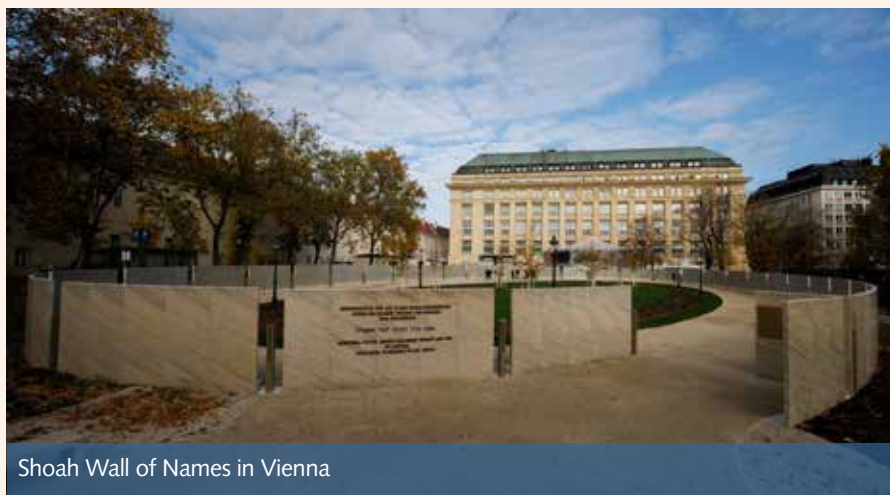
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BUSY TIMES IN AUSTRIA

A three-part visit to Vienna



Shoah Wall of Names in Vienna

With its series of imposing tablets, the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial was formally opened at a moving ceremony on 9 November in Vienna, to mark the anniversary of Kristallnacht.

Conceived by Austrian survivor Kurt Yacov Tutter, the monuments – spanning some 170m – commemorate the lives of almost 65,000 Austrians who were murdered in the Holocaust. Situated in Ostarrichi Park near the University of Vienna, the engraved names “preserve the memory of each and every individual”, as noted by Federal President Alexander van der Bellen in his welcoming address, and have been gathered thanks to records from the Documentations Archive of the Austrian Resistance (DÖW).

Later that day, the new Kindertransport exhibition at the Jewish Museum Vienna was launched with a keynote speech by AJR member, journalist and writer, Hella Pick. Among the remarkable collection of exhibits, which includes material drawn from the AJR, is a poignant letter written by a ten-year old Viennese girl who wrote desperately to the then Princess Elizabeth asking that she might

intervene to help bring out her family from Austria. It is not known whether the letter was received but the girl and her family perished in the Shoah. The exhibition also features a 1950s football used by the Sporstverein Vienna and appears alongside documents belonging to Hans Menasse, who fled to Britain but later returned to Austria and became a well-known player, including for Luton Town.

Menasse’s football career was in our thoughts during the third part of our visit to Vienna: our attendance at a global conference organised by the office of Lord Mann, the government’s independent adviser on antisemitism, the Chelsea FC Foundation, the Jewish community of Vienna and the International Coalition for Combating Antisemitism. Featuring contributions from the Austrian Government, the European Commission, UNESCO as well as football clubs, the conference was preceded by a ceremony in the Judenplatz at which the Austrian Football Association adopted the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism; The FK Austria Wien football club, which hosted the conference also adopted the definition. As part of their contribution, Chelsea announced the launch of the Global Chapter, an initiative to utilise the power of sport to combat antisemitism.

Mike Karp and Michael Newman

TACKLING ANTISEMITISM

This report was written by two Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassadors who attended the Global Conference on Football’s Role in Combatting Antisemitism, held in Vienna in November.

At the end of 2020, a group of HET Ambassadors worked with Lord Mann, HM Government’s Independent Advisor on Antisemitism, to produce a report on antisemitism in football in Europe. We collaborated on research across a range of countries, finding evidence of antisemitic incidents in football, and examples of best practice. The final report has since been distributed to football clubs and other organisations across the UK and Europe and we hope it will have a profound impact on the sector’s approach to tackling hatred and discrimination and inspire international change.

On 11 November the Austrian Football Association adopted the IHRA definition. It was a privilege to hear from the Vice Chancellor of Austria, amongst others, about this significant moment in Austrian history. The rest of the day was spent at the Austria Wien Stadium, hearing from a range of panellists including Lord John Mann, Hannah Lessing – Co-Head of the Austrian Delegation of the IHRA, Thomas Hollerer – Secretary General of the Austrian Football Association and representatives from Chelsea and Borussia Dortmund. It was inspiring to hear about the various ways football teams and politicians are tackling antisemitism within football and society. It was also fantastic to see the Ambassadors’ report on display at the conference for attendees to read and take away with them.

The conference highlighted the work being done to tackle antisemitism globally, and we hope it will serve as a catalyst for a united approach to rid antisemitism from both football and wider society.
Evie Robinson and Billy Sumner

ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

Portrait of
a Young
Man –
Albrecht
Dürer,
1521



It might be a drawing of a hare, a pair of praying hands, or even a lightning sketch, but some critics have favourably compared the 16th century artist, Albrecht Dürer, to some of the greatest painters of the Renaissance – including Leonardo da Vinci. Dürer's Journey, Travels of a Renaissance Artist at the National Gallery, follows the peripatetic Nuremberg-born painter, printmaker, and Renaissance theorist, who grasped his era's latest technology to create woodcut prints of rare perfection. His zest for travel brought him into the orbit of major Italian contemporaries such as Raphael, Bellini, and da Vinci, while still in his early 20s.

Nuremberg, then part of the Roman empire, was a thriving trading centre, and the latest invention of engraving brought out a passion in Dürer to create woodcuts, many on biblical or apocalyptic themes, which are rendered with astonishing detail. *The Knight, Death and the Devil* is one example of his visionary skill and in his *Adam and Eve* engraving, in which he aims to portray human perfection, he includes the animals representing the four medieval temperaments: the choleric cat, the sanguine rabbit, the phlegmatic ox and the melancholic elk. These are superb feats of artistic achievement.

The oil paintings tend to be candid rather than flattering, such as his vivid portrait of his father, *Albrecht Dürer the Elder with a Rosary*, which opens the exhibition. Such is the deep introspection in the face of his subject that Albrecht Senior seems to be alive in this moment. His work in these areas is prolific but sometimes of a mixed standard. His religious paintings – the

obvious preoccupation of his time – are executed with lush colours showing the usual window out onto some subliminal landscape, although I found his *Madonna and Child (Haller Madonna)* surprisingly wooden, while the hand of the writhing baby Jesus is contorted to the point of disproportionality, and neither face expresses much spirituality.

And then there are the self-portraits, of which he was a prodigious exponent. He drew his first selfie at the age of 13. And he painted many of them. It is not surprising. He would have been hard pressed to find a more beautiful model than his own face. The almost Christ-like image in *Self Portrait* his best-known version, hand outstretched in virtual blessing, his handsome face and full lips languid beneath a cascade of chestnut curls, was painted just before his 29th birthday. You realise it must be the work of a narcissist, such is the obsessive self-love. But you forgive him when you also see the dedication and intensity with which he portrays animals. In fact, in one of these, his own magnificent hair adorns the face of an amiable looking lion! So, Dürer has a sense of humour, too.

His watercolours of landscape, birds and animals are something of an obsession: lovingly studied and executed in minute detail. It makes Dürer seem one of the world's first conservationists. His dewy eyed hare is so furry you want to pick it up and cuddle it.

But there are also intimate studies of girls and women – like the young girl with her thumb in her mouth whose simplicity belies its artistic precision. Young women in complex headgear grow from warm innocence to something more calculating and worldly,

and often sad. In their naturalism, some works betray less of an Italian influence than the Dutch school, such as Gossaert and Jan van Eyck.

On his mission to spread the artistic word, he attracted some of the most influential patrons, while his wife Agnes and his mother went to print fairs to sell his work. In 1521 Dürer fell ill and returned to Nuremberg to continue his theoretical writings and illustrations. There is a lovely, contemplative sketch of his mother, Agnes, perhaps in an off guard moment, and you can only admire his precision of line. His drawings of children and old people range from the innocent to the immersive and the grotesque. Some of his grotesque portraits, verge on caricature. Having said that, they are redeemed by the light on their features and the love which shines through them. Animal or human, you imagine Dürer had entered their very souls. *Until February 27, 2022*

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CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

Mixed emotions

Leeds-based AJR member Tom Kubie explains why sponsoring a tree in Glasgow in the names of the Kubie and Banyai families was an emotive moment for him, stirring up a range of feelings from gratitude, pride and respect to sadness.

Gratitude to the people and City of Glasgow for providing a safe haven to our families from 1940 onwards after we had to leave Broughty Ferry on the East coast of Scotland as it had become a protected area.

Gratitude, pride and respect for how my parents, Otto and Nina Kubie, together with my maternal grandparents, Dr (HC) Maurus and Franziska Banyai, stood up to the challenges that faced us and ensured and provided a caring and loving home, not only for the three children in our household, but the whole family that had escaped to Great Britain. My father's older sister, Else and her son, Tony, also managed to escape and joined us in Glasgow.

The 'Kubies' consisted of Otto and Nina and their three sons, Robert (Bob), Thomas (Tom) and William (Bill), all Austrian nationals. My father, having trained as an Electrical Engineer, worked in his father's textile manufacturing business in Lomnice, Czechoslovakia, rising to the position of Sales Director. In early 1939 he set off on a sales trip to Switzerland, France and England where he happened to be when the Germans invaded Czechoslovakia. He wanted to return but was instead persuaded to try to get his family out to safety in England. He made strenuous efforts, working with the Winton organisation.

Meanwhile in Brno my mother queued at the British Embassy every day for an exit visa, obtaining one with a 7-day window. Eventually we arrived in Harwich on 12 July 1939 and joined my father in London. From there we travelled to Broughty Ferry near Dundee where my father had obtained employment as a Draughtsman at a textile engineering/manufacturing company. Life began to settle down until my father was arrested and then interned on the Isle of Man for several months.



My mother was given a three day window to leave the east coast and found a home for us in the Croftfoot area of Glasgow, where my father eventually rejoined us. He found new employment as a draughtsman with British Luma in Govan, where lamp bulbs were manufactured. He rose to a management position and also acted as a night watchman for which he was awarded a Civil Defence medal.

Meanwhile, to help make ends meet my mother and grandmother hand crocheted place mats, shopping bags and belts for a Glasgow based business.

My maternal grandparents, the Banyais, held Hungarian citizenship which proved to be a lifesaver. My maternal grandfather was a renowned textile engineer who established a successful carpet manufacturing business just outside Vienna. In autumn 1938 he was warned that the Gestapo were coming to arrest him so he and his wife fled to us in Brno. In early 1939 they travelled to London and then to Broughty Ferry where my grandfather also worked as a draughtsman. They moved to Glasgow with us.

Seven people living in a four-roomed upstairs flat was a huge change, especially for the adults, but they did not grumble or complain - they just knuckled down and got on with life. At the end of the war my father received the sad news that 56% of his family, including his parents, had perished in various concentration camps.

During the ensuing years my grandfather



worked on a variety of projects one of which led him to design a weaving process for a fabric which until then was hand manufactured. With the help of the Goldberg's (of A Goldberg and Sons) and the Harris's (of Harris Tobacconists) he set up British Replin Ltd in Ayr in 1945 and my father joined him. Just as the business was becoming established my grandfather died, in February 1949. The company continued to grow and is still in business, under new ownership.

My parents ensured that the education and welfare of their children was safe and in due course all three of us completed university courses.

Bob married Ann (née Lewis) in Glasgow, and had a son, Paul; unfortunately Bob developed Multiple Sclerosis which in time ended his career as a University lecturer. He died in September 1983.

Bill married Hilary (née Goldstone) in Manchester, where he had set up a textile company. They had a daughter, Victoria, and a son, Michael. Tragically Bill was involved in a motoring accident in November 1968, and did not survive.

I am Tom and married to Pauline (née Hill); we now live in Leeds, close to our daughters Sarah and Kate.

I hope that the oak tree in Kelvingrove Park will grow from strength to strength, just as my parents and grandparents stood up to the challenges that faced them.



80 Trees for 80 Years

Twenty-three of the very special oak trees that we are planting around Britain to mark 80 Years of the AJR. This month will be extraordinarily busy, with almost 40 individual planting ceremonies taking place. We hope you are everyone who is helping to make this very special project happen. We hope you



SHROPSHIRE

In 1939, shortly after War was declared, Prees Heath Common in Shropshire was turned into an internment camp for 2,000 Austrian and German men who had sought safety in Britain. Today the common is managed by the charity Butterfly Conservation and is the last sanctuary for the Silver-studded Blue butterfly in the Midlands. Our oak tree was planted on 17 November by AJR's Fran Horwich and is sponsored by our member Sue Phillips, who later wrote "It was so good to learn more about the Heath which has such a fascinating history and for me to feel that a little part of me belongs there." The names of Sue's late parents, Eric and Marianne Beal, who came from Germany and Austria respectively, are featured on a plaque alongside the tree.



WEMBLEY

The London Borough of Brent was, of course, home for many Jewish refugees and we are delighted to be working with Brent Council to arrange tree plantings in several of the borough's beautiful parks. In Wembley our tree has been sponsored by the family of Willy Field, born Willy Hirschfeld on 17 August 1920 in Bonn. Shortly after Kristallnacht Willy was arrested outside his place of work and spent several months in Dachau. His subsequent departure from Bonn railway station was the last time he saw his parents. Despite a rocky start to life in the UK, including being deported to Australia for a year on the infamous *HMT Dunera*, Willy had a very happy life in London and the establishment of a new family was, for him, his greatest legacy. His son Anthony told us: "It is really wonderful that my father, Willy Field, will have a lasting and growing memorial to remind everyone of him....we are very happy and proud to have supported this lovely initiative of planting 80 Trees to mark 80 Years of the AJR, and hope that our tree, as well as the AJR itself, flourishes and grows in the next 80 years."



GLASGOW

Many Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe settled in Glasgow, helping the size of Scotland's Jewish community to peak at 20,000. Agnes Isaacs manages the AJR's Outreach programme in Scotland and is herself the daughter of two Jewish refugees. Sadly Agnes' mother Eva, who spent most of the War in the Budapest ghetto and amazingly managed to escape deportation to Auschwitz, passed away in early 2021. Agnes and her sister Sylvia decided to sponsor a tree in her honour, planting it at Rouken Glen Park, very close to where their beloved mother lived. A second Glasgow tree was planted in Kelvingrove Park by another AJR member, Tom Kubie, whose thoughts about this event appear on the previous page.



LEWISHAM

Our member Dorothea Lipton wrote: "I was privileged to be present at this amazing and momentous tree planting event and I want to thank everyone who made it possible." It was Dorothea's suggestion to plant the tree in Beckenham Place Park, and it resulted in a very moving and well-attended event hosted by the Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan. The tree itself was sponsored by a regular contributor to this Journal, Janet

Years – the roll-out

mark our 80th anniversary had been placed in the ground by the end of December.
g place. Thousands of people are involved, in one way or another, and we are very grateful to
u enjoy these photo stories of some of the plantings that have happened so far.

Weston, in honour of her father Hans Herman Meyer who died last January, just three months short of his 100th birthday. Born in Lübeck, Hans spent the War in Palestine with his family, before coming to Britain in 1946 to study mechanical engineering at UCL. He spent the last 63 years of his life in Woking, most of them with his wife Barbara, and is survived by daughters Janet, who lives close to Lewisham, and Felicity, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



WORCESTERSHIRE

The University of Worcester arranged a wonderful tree planting event on 30 November. Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Green welcomed everyone and spoke of the importance of education in combating racism and antisemitism and how the university is promoting this. Marilyn Thomas, our Social Worker for the Midlands region, represented AJR at the event and read out this message from tree sponsor Annette Woolf, who lives in Canada:

Peter and I are delighted to be sponsoring this tree in the names of my dear parents John and Rita Woolf and my aunt Rita Low.

My father John Edward Wolf was born in 1905 in Germany near Frankfurt. His family had a very successful music business which John was trained to take over but it was seized by the Nazis. John fled Germany after Kristallnacht, arriving in the UK in March 1939, penniless. He joined the Pioneer Corps and later became the manager of a music publishing house.

My mother Rita was born in March 1913 in Hamburg. She came to the UK in 1937 on a domestic visa and married John in December 1942. Together they participated in many AJR activities.

Gaby Low was Rita's youngest sister and came to the UK in 1938 also on a domestic work visa. She never married and spent her life taking care of the young and the elderly.

All three were eternally grateful to Britain for accepting them in their darkest hour.



BUXTON

Reverend Tony Rindl is the Vicar of Watford. He is also the son of a Kindertransportee, Herbert Rindl, whose name appears on a plaque next to the tree that Tony and his sister, Maggie McNally, sponsored in Buxton, Derbyshire. This is an extract from the speech that Tony gave at both the Buxton planting ceremony and - by coincidence - at a second tree planting event later that same week in his own parish of Watford.

"Dad was an inspiration and taught us many things about life. He taught us to be tolerant and respectful of others. He taught us to value different cultures and religious beliefs as people we could learn from. I believe he also taught us not to judge because we do not know what hardships and difficulties others have had to endure. He taught us the value of justice and that there is no place for extremist views or racism or hatred of any kind.

In later years he would share memories of his childhood in Austria and his father and his mother. I can't help thinking of their courage and the heartache they must have felt when they waved goodbye to Herbert on that August night in Vienna 82 years ago. Neither of them would see him again as they both perished in the Holocaust.

Yet Dad survived and many like him because of those who arranged the Kindertransport and showed kindness and enabled them to live a good life. We thank you for their lives, for the memories we treasure. We thank you for all that they have given to others. And we thank you for all that they received, especially the kindness and hospitality of others.

Look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards justice and of peace.

Bless this tree and may it be a symbol of life, of hope, of endurance and serve as a reminder of the power of love to overcome evil. As this tree grows may compassion and love grow in all our hearts."



BRANCHING OUT

Discover Buxton Tours @discoverbuxton - Dec 1
 Thanks to the Rinal and Eisner families who spoke so poignantly about their fathers who were given safe haven in the UK @TheAJR_ who supplied the tree @HighPeakBC who supported the planting @highsheriffs Louise Potter @Guernseyevacuee and the children of Burbage Primary School



North Somerset Times

Jewish refugee charity marks 80 years with tree planting campaign



Salford school pupils plant tree to mark the 80th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Refugees



As part of the Association of Jewish Refugees 80th Anniversary, 80 native oak trees are being planted across Britain.

We are proud of our head pupils who planted one of these trees in the Memorial Forest at Clowes Park.



The AJR's 80 Trees for 80 Years will be physically appreciated by many thousands of people for many decades to come. And in the short term they are also reaching a very large virtual audience. This is just a small sample of the printed and social media coverage that our various tree planting ceremonies has attracted so far.

Southend-on-Sea BC @StepSafeSouthend @Southend... Nov 25
 We are delighted to be supporting the Association of Jewish Refugees 80th anniversary project '80 Trees for 80 Years' and will be planting a native oak tree in Chalkwell park on Tuesday 30 November at 12pm as part of National Tree Week.



Business Council @BusinessCouncil... Dec 3
 An oak tree has been planted at the grounds of Business Council to mark the 80th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Refugees.



East Devon Council @EastDevonCouncil | Nov 18
 Provost Fletcher (@FletcherEastDev) joined representatives from @TheAJR at Rouken Glen where a native oak tree was planted to mark the 80th anniversary of the Association.



West Lothian Council @WestLothianCouncil | Nov 26
 What a great day to spend @EastDevonCouncil planting a tree on behalf of @BusinessCouncil at Winton Park, West Lothian for the 80th Anniversary. Great to meet Bob Kirk BEM and hear his moving story and see him plant a tree on behalf of @TheAJR, and to happen to being out of town work.



IT WILL BE DARK BY 5 THIS EVENING



So turn on your computer and light up your evening by exploring benuri.org/buru

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Remembering the Kitchener Camp

A KITCHENER REFUGEE

Werner Weissenberg, my father, was born in Pleß, Upper Silesia, in November 1911 – the only child of Else and Leopold Weissenberg. Werner attended Hindenburg Gymnasium in Beuthen, and then Breslau University, to study physics. Forced to leave in 1936, one term before completing his doctorate, Werner was next employed as a teacher at Philanthropin, Frankfurt am Main.

Werner was arrested in Frankfurt in November 1938 and imprisoned in Dachau. Thousands of Jewish men were imprisoned there, as well as in Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen. All suffered extreme privation and abuse from the moment they entered the camps, and hundreds died or were killed over the following months.

In response to these mass incarcerations, the Kindertransport and Kitchener rescues began at the end of 1938 and in early 1939. They were funded and run mainly by the Central British Fund for German Jewry (now World Jewish Relief), with help from the Quakers and financial assistance from the American Joint Distribution Committee. The rescues were intended to provide a temporary haven before onward migration – a requirement of the British visa. Ultimately, around a third of the refugees managed to move onwards – most to the USA.

Werner was released from Dachau in February 1939, on condition that he left Germany immediately. He obtained a place at Kitchener refugee camp in Sandwich, Kent and in June 1939 he left Germany, never to return.

Most of Werner's family were killed in the Shoah.

I am Werner's daughter. I was born in the 1960s. Like many refugees, Werner seldom spoke about his past: we only learned he'd been in Dachau after his death in 1990.

When my mother died in 2014, I 'inherited' my father's suitcase of German letters and photographs.

Whilst getting these materials translated, I created www.fromnumberstonames.com, to share them with my family. I worked through Werner's history until I reached references to Kitchener camp – and I wondered what it was... Finding little information, I started another website (www.kitchenercamp.co.uk) which was to become the Kitchener Camp Project.

Working alongside Clare Ungerson, author of *Four Thousand Lives: The rescue of German Jewish men to Britain, 1939*, we organised a committee that included Adrienne Harris – daughter of Phineas May and niece of Jonas May, two extraordinary brothers who set their own lives aside to run Kitchener camp. Also on the committee was Stephen Nelken, organiser of our first Kitchener event. Stephen's father Lothar had also been at Breslau University and in the same Kartell fraternity as my father. Indeed, we met because Stephen sought fraternity contacts in this very *AJR Journal*. Paul Secher was our fifth hard-working committee member: his father left Vienna in 1939.

The Kitchener project brings together documents and photographs from archives and from whatever materials the refugees kept. These range through family letters, aid agency documents, and German passports, to Kitchener camp cinema tickets, or passes for a day out at the beach or with Sandwich residents, who welcomed refugees for afternoon tea and friendly conversation.

In collating materials long stored in homes scattered across the world, families created an extraordinary resource about the November 1938 arrests, the Kitchener rescue, and about those people who helped to make it happen – some of whom will be recipients of 'Heroes of the Holocaust' awards to be presented this month. Others added information about the next stages for the refugees, including enlistment in the Pioneer Corps, or internment in Britain, Canada, and Australia.

I donated the Kitchener website and



exhibition to the Wiener Holocaust Library in 2019. A copy of the exhibition was donated to Leo Baeck Institute, New York, and another has been sent for presentation in Australia.

We look forward to celebrating the Kitchener Descendants Group being placed on a more formal and permanent footing as a new Special Interest Group of the AJR. A proud day indeed for Kitchener families.

Dr Clare Weissenberg, Designer and Editor, The Kitchener Camp Project

Kitchener Descendants Special Interest Group

The AJR is delighted that the Kitchener Descendants Group is now a Special Interest Group, joining the Kindertransport and the Child Survivor Groups which already have a special status within the AJR. Each group will continue to hold its own events and meetings and produce information of interest to their 'members'.

We very much look forward to welcoming more Kitchener descendants into the AJR fold and to increasing awareness of the Kitchener camp and the stories of the refugees. A new dedicated page has already been created on our website for the Kitchener Descendants Special Interest Group.

Finally, we thank Clare Weissenberg for placing the Kitchener Camp literally on the history map and to the rest of the committee for their hard work.
<https://ajr.org.uk/special-interest/kitchener-descendants/>

Three Soldiers: a story

This story by AJR member Rev. Bernd Koschland MBE follows on from his story in our December issue, *Brothers in Arms*, and recounts the lives of the three German soldiers who answered the call for Minyan in the British trenches in WW1.

In a particular section held by a Bavarian Infantry company were three Jewish soldiers. They were close friends and became even closer once they arrived at a POW camp in the UK. After the war, Heinrich Schuster, Carl Berliner and Martin Kahn returned home to begin their lives anew, marry sweethearts left behind and have a family. Heinrich lived in Munich, Carl in Bamberg and Martin in Ichenhausen. Despite distance they kept in regular contact, met during the years and spent holidays together as three families. Life seemed pleasant enough in their jobs though small black clouds of National Socialism hovered on the horizon.

Who were these three in reality? Heinrich was a university lecturer in German language and literature. Carl had a law practice and Martin was a well-respected general physician and cardiologist. As for their attachment to Judaism, after the Minyan episode in the trenches Heinrich belonged to the German liberal community, Carl remained orthodox while Martin gave up everything, remaining strongly Jewish but without belief. Despite their different personalities and religious outlook they all got on well.

Officer

The clouds became much darker; Nazism was on the rise and Hitler became Führer. Heinrich worried about his family's future. After much discussion with his wife Lucy, they decided to leave Germany for England. He resigned from the university and set in motion the move to London, where they settled in a suburb. He found a job as a teacher of German in a local



Grammar School. Some years later he was approached by a Chief Inspector from the local Police, who asked him if he would help as an interpreter if needed. Months after the outbreak of the war, he was called on by the Chief Inspector, accompanied by a Major. The latter had a message from the War Office that Heinrich should report there immediately next day. The Inspector added that he would not be interned as an Alien.

Heinrich reported as requested. He was shown in to a Lt Colonel, who greeted him with a warm handshake and told him he would be required in interrogating German POW's. He would be enlisted into the Army, and after some training he would be commissioned as Lieutenant and posted to a POW camp.

At the end of the war, Heinrich was promoted to Captain and in August 1945, he was stationed as part of a contingent of Brits in the American Zone in Nuremberg and put in charge of the War Criminal prisoners awaiting trial with the higher rank of Major.

Visa

Carl Berliner's family had moved to Bamberg from Berlin; hence his surname. After WW1 he trained as a lawyer and set up a practice in town which became

quite successful. He married Betty, who belonged to the same orthodox synagogue.

With new laws being passed, Jewish life became increasingly more difficult. Service in WW1 made not a shred of difference. Jewish professionals could only deal with Jews. Judges were removed. Carl's practice thus shrank. He discussed the situation with Betty and they decided to apply for a visa to USA immediately. They were told it would come, but it would take time. Carl asked the Embassy if they could recommend some books on American law. He also tried to improve the English he had learned in school.

In 1938, a month before Kristallnacht, they received the visa, obtained passage on a liner and within three weeks Carl, Betty and their children left for America. They had to pay to obtain permission to leave the country and had to leave possessions behind. By careful planning, Carl had opened an American bank account and transferred a large sum into it - despite laws forbidding this. How he did it will remain a secret forever.

They sailed from Hamburg on the SS *Manhattan*, as also did a group of Kindertransport children who disembarked in Southampton to start a

new life in freedom. The Berliners reached New York, settled in a suburb and, as soon as was possible, Carl started work in a law firm to gain registration as a qualified lawyer; his work and reading helped to speed up recognition. He set up his own office and did well, till he was told to enlist in the Army some months after Pearl Harbour. He was put into the Legal section of a nearby base, which served much of the northern part of the States.

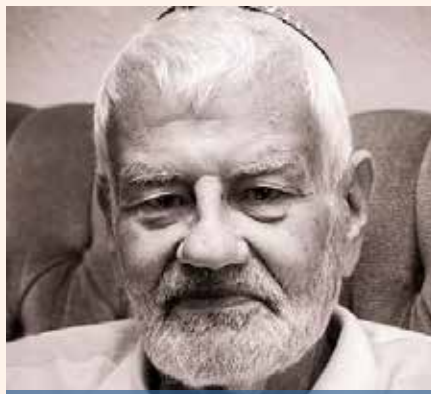
Near the end of the war, plans were being made for War Crimes Trials. German speaking lawyers were needed; Carl volunteered and was posted to Nuremberg where the trials would be held. (Nuremberg was chosen because the prison was linked to the Courts and thus safe from outside attack). One day on the way to the prison, he saw a British officer, Henry. They recognised each other, had a chat and met again frequently when off duty.

Survivor

Carl and Henry were in court one day and heard a witness giving evidence. They both recognised him; it was a haggard looking Martin. His testimony lasted two more days until the Court ruled he would not be needed again. Then Carl and Henry caught up with him; Carl led them to the American base where they had a meal and listened to Martin's story.

Martin spoke about his life as a practising doctor in Ichenhausen; life was good and more enjoyable after his marriage to Margot and the birth of their daughter, Hannah. "After 1933 the situation for Jews changed dramatically. I was allowed to care for Jewish patients only. Then came Kristallnacht when the synagogue was left a smoking ruin. We were taken to an open space in the middle of the night, women and children were allowed home next morning but we men were taken to Dachau concentration camp. By Divine mercy, as a doctor, I was let home after a couple of days."

Martin continued as a doctor as best as he could. He had to wear the Yellow star. Sadly, the time came when all Jews had to assemble and had to walk in silence for miles. They were ordered to get into cattle trucks, the doors were shut and they could only stand. Finally, the doors



Rev. Bernd Koschland MBE

were opened and men only were ordered to get down. Martin had only a very brief good-bye hug with Margot and Hannah. He would not see them again, though perhaps, maybe...who knows?

The men were marched for miles till they reached a camp. They were given camp garb and allocated to huts. They had to share bunks. Their first food since arriving was 'supper', a liquid called soup and some bread; 'cutlery' was a spoon and dish which they had to keep and use for all 'meals'. Within a few weeks of arrival Martin was allocated to the 'medical' hut as it had been discovered that he was a doctor. There was very little with which to help patients.

After liberation, Martin was taken to a US military hospital to recover from his ordeal, and then he assisted the other doctors. Three months later he went to work in a local general hospital. Two events there changed his life again. A patient, when she heard his name, asked if he was related to Margot, who had died in her arms. He replied that she was his wife. She had no news of their daughter. Secondly, he became very close to Leah, the nurse who worked with him and was also a survivor who had lost all her family. Finally, they married, left the hospital and moved into a flat; they put a plaque outside with Martin's details. Over the next few years patients came to see him but Martin and Leah were getting older and decided to retire to Israel.

Leah and Martin enrolled in an Ulpan and after a few months they were able to speak some Hebrew and could undertake voluntary work in a local hospital. One morning, when they went for a coffee, they found themselves sitting with

two Army officers. Martin was asked what his original surname was; having shortened it to 'Chen' he answered it was Ichenhauser and he came from the town of Ichenhausen.

The female Officer turned round and said apologetically, "Ichenhauser was my original name. Did you know a Dr Martin and his wife Margot?" Martin replied that he was that person and before he could finish the sentence, the Officer leapt from her seat and hugged him with the words, "I am Hannah, your lost daughter". Tears of joy rolled down their cheeks. After minutes of silence, Hannah introduced her husband, Gadi, and Martin his wife Leah. Finally, Hannah said she and Gadi must go back on duty; they arranged to meet again in two days, subject to her CO agreeing. She took her father's phone number, and drove off.

Martin was dumbfounded. Leah hugged him and he soon recovered himself. He explained to those at near-by tables what it was all about. Was the reunion pure chance, or was it Divinely ordained? Who knows?

EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY THE ARTIST FRANCES BILDNER

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"Freedom in Colour" acrylic, 48" x 36" by Frances Bildner

REVIEWS



THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH: THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE OF AN AUSCHWITZ SURVIVOR

Eddie Jaku
Pan Macmillan

Eddie Jaku endured some of the darkest times imaginable and yet later, despite atrocities and loss of both parents, could declare "I now consider myself the happiest man on Earth". Concentration camp survivor Eddie was born into a loving Jewish family in Leipzig, eastern Germany, as Abraham Salomon Jakobowicz to Isidore, a skilled mechanic of Polish descent who was immensely proud to be German. His mother Lina had lost her father and brother fighting for the country in the First World War. But this counted for nothing as the Nazis gained their inexorable grip.

The city was rich in Jewish culture, its location and importance as a trading centre made it a fountain for spreading technology and ideas. The university, Germany's second oldest, was founded in 1409 and Leipzig had some of Europe's most beautiful synagogues. As Eddie explained: "I truly believed that I was part of the most enlightened, most cultured and most sophisticated – certainly the most educated – society in the whole world. How wrong I was".

As clouds gathered Eddie was kicked out of his gymnasium (grammar) school and his father enrolled him at a mechanical engineering college in Tuttlingen, a nine hour train journey away. He took an assumed name with false papers and remained for five years of unrelenting hard work and loneliness, becoming top apprentice of the year.

But he desperately missed his family and on 9 November 1938 made "the biggest mistake of my young life" when deciding to pay his parents a surprise visit for their 20th wedding anniversary. He found the house dark and his family had gone into hiding. The infamous Kristallnacht raged and ten Nazis broke into the house; he was very badly beaten up and his little dog killed. Eddie found himself in Buchenwald as the terrible nightmare continued but after six months he gave the authorities the slip and daringly escaped with his father to Brussels.

After nearly a year in a refugee camp he fled to Dunkirk as life in Belgium became increasingly unsafe. He had to walk the whole way to southern France, experiencing incredible kindness of strangers en route. Disaster struck in Lyon when arrested as a German rather than a Jew! Soon he was in Gurs concentration camp in south west France but escaped in transit to Auschwitz. But following another arrest in winter 1943 he ended up there after a horrific nine day journey. Conditions and treatment were atrocious in this death camp but time and again his mechanical skills saw him through, aided by his gift for friendship.

He endured death marches as the Germans were losing the war before giving himself up to American soldiers, spending six weeks in hospital with cholera and typhoid, weighing only 28 kilos. Ever resilient, in April 1946 he married Flore, a Jewish girl who had survived the war in hiding and they had two sons Michael and André. Moving to Australia in 1950, they were married for 75 years until his death in October 2021. Amazingly the previous year at 100 he wrote this compelling autobiography after giving talks to groups and sharing experiences with fellow survivors.

Janet Weston

WELL WORTH SAVING

Laurel Leff
Yale University Press

Was a scholar fleeing Hitler 'well worth saving'? This was the cold-hearted phrase American universities would use when weighing up whether to help an applicant escape Hitler's tyranny.

Laurel Leff, a professor at Northwestern

University, in Evanston, Illinois, runs through the criteria that came into play in - to use her subtitle - *American Universities' Life-and-Death Decisions on Refugees from Nazi Europe*. Her chilling study helps us understand why the United States' role in saving Europe's intellectual élite from the Nazis is not quite the oft-proclaimed tale of triumph.

Some universities just didn't hire Jews, refugee or not. Others allowed one Jew per department; beyond that, it was feared, the Jews would 'take over'. Before recruiting, the institution would want to know if the fleeing academic was world-class and well connected; neither too old (you would be eligible for a pension too soon) nor too young (you still had to get a reputation); and not too right-wing or too left-wing. The Ivy League's prestigious Dartmouth College would consider refugees - if they were 'not too Jewish'. Had the family converted? Were the parents a 'mixed marriage'? Leff tells us: '...they might be acceptable, as long as they didn't look or talk or act Jewish (everybody seemed to know what that meant)'. And, if you were a female scholar, your chances of getting hired were still slimmer.

To bring her story to life, Leff follows the plight of eight scholars from their dismissals to their final desperate bids to escape. One of them was Leonore Brecher, a Romanian-born zoologist who had carried out research in Austria, Germany and Britain. Her speciality was the way heredity and environment might cause butterflies to change their colour. Brecher struggled to emigrate from September 1933, when the University of Kiel fired her. She returned to the University of Vienna, where she had been awarded a doctorate in 1916, but where her superiors had refused to grant her a *Habilitation*; that would have allowed her to teach and, ultimately, obtain a professorship.

In the spring of 1938, Brecher appealed to Leslie Dunn, a Columbia university biology professor with whom she had worked; he served on the board of an emergency committee set up to help

endangered scholars, but, she learned, they were 'older and more established scientists' - Brecher was born in 1885. She then approached another body that assisted academics; it referred her back to Dunn. He looked around and told her 'I am not very hopeful', and made no further efforts to help her.

At the same time, Brecher appealed to a university women's group that had given her a fellowship in the 1920s. She registered with the U. S. consulate in Vienna for an immigration visa. As Washington had set the quota for Romanians at 603 a year, she could expect to wait for some six years. And, as she had not had, and would not be coming to, a teaching position, she was not eligible for a non-quota visa. Becher, whose request for financial aid was turned down, was still trying to get a non-quota visa in September 1941. A year later, aged 55, she was murdered days after her deportation, with about a thousand other Jews, to an extermination camp near Minsk. The city of Vienna in 2018 named a street after her in Meidling, the twelfth district.

U. S. universities were fully aware of the well-publicised plight and purges of Jewish scholars in Hitler's Europe; many academics tried to help displaced peers. While it is hard to establish precise figures, Leff notes that the main organisation handled more than six thousand dossiers during the Nazi years. Yet for every scholar who survived and thrived, many more perished. Three generations ago, the antisemitism that prevailed on the campus was a means of ensuring the continued dominance of the gentile ascendancy. Frequently there was little enthusiasm for taking advantage of the wealth of Central European talent that suddenly flooded the market. Of course, what Leff calls 'tight university hiring policies' were only part of the picture. Even under Roosevelt's progressive administration, Washington's rigorous red-tape throttled the inflow of immigrants as a whole. Leff believes, nonetheless, that Americans could have done more to rescue intellectuals from the Nazi scourge.

Martin Mauthner

ONLINE EVENT WILL CELEBRATE REAL-LIFE JAMES BOND

On 17 January AJR will be celebrating the life of (Hugh) Wolfe Frank, the Chief Interpreter at the Nuremberg Trials. Dubbed at the time 'the voice of doom', Frank is today regarded as 'a wrongfully forgotten hero of the twentieth century' and one of its bravest and most charismatic characters.

The son of a Jewish industrialist, Frank was a pre-war playboy. He fled Germany for England in 1937 having been branded an 'enemy of the state - to be shot on sight'. Initially interned as an 'enemy alien', he later joined the British Army, where he rose to the rank of Captain. Unable to speak English when he arrived, by the time of the trials he was considered to be the finest interpreter in the world.

Following his service at Nuremberg, Frank became increasingly alarmed at the misinformation coming out of Germany. In 1949, backed by the New York Herald Tribune and to the knowledge of USA military and intelligence services, he once again risked his life by returning to the country of his birth to make an 'undercover' survey of the main facets of post-war German life and viewpoints. During his enterprise, he worked as a German in factories, on the docks, in a



refugee camp and elsewhere. Equipped with false papers he sought objective answers to many questions including refugees, antisemitism, morality, de-Nazification, religion, and nationalism. This led to the publication of an acclaimed series of articles under the generic title 'Hangover After Hitler'. Having also been set the task of investigating 2,000 'missing' Nazi officers, Frank single-handedly tracked down and arrested one of the Generals on the Allies 'Most Wanted' list.

Added to his good looks, intelligence service involvements, maverick tendencies, charismatic character and colourful private life (he was married five times and had countless affairs) many now see Frank as having been a real-life James Bond.

You can hear more about this remarkable man on Monday 17 January at 6pm, when Dr Toby Simpson, director of The Wiener Holocaust Library, will be in conversation with author Paul Hooley. Book at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-wolfe-frank-memorial-tickets-223338500467>

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OBITUARIES

CAROL HART

HEAD OF VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Born: 11 September 1957, London

Died: 17 November 2021, London



Carol was a natural leader and organiser and general factotum. Although when she joined the AJR in the summer of 2001 it was as volunteers' manager, it quickly became evident that she could take on more and greater responsibilities and saw opportunities to develop the role and, more importantly, our organisation.

Her role and title expanded when she became secretary to the Umbrella Group, a cross-communal committee devising policy on how to disburse social welfare funds to Holocaust refugees and survivors. This not only put Carol at the very heart of our work but also gave her an interface with our partner agencies.

This was further enhanced when she was asked to head up our community activities: to be the public face of the AJR, to represent us in various community initiatives as well as national projects and campaigns. Most notably there was her role on the Yom HaShoah committee. From the outside one might think this was merely the delivery of an event – itself no small task – but in fact it was much more: it was about promoting the awareness and importance of Shoah remembrance, of inculcating in our community the memory of the Holocaust as well as honouring the survivors and refugees. With Carol at the heart of the Yom HaShoah committee, attendance at the national event has grown enormously.

One of the most heart-warming projects she instigated and led is our Jewish awareness training, the chance for

colleagues in and outside the AJR to be able to encounter our traditions, practice and customs. It proved so popular that we extended it so that representatives from agencies across society, including from government, could attend, giving participants a real insight into the Jewish way of life, complete – as you would expect – with food.

Some of the most touching messages we have received these past few weeks have come from the young volunteers from Germany who served with us through Action Reconciliation Service for Peace. Above all they recall a surrogate mother, their Jewish mother, perhaps Carol's vocation and legacy.

The outpouring of heartfelt messages of condolences are testament to the person Carol was and the esteem in which she was held across the community and throughout the country.

Carol was a problem solver. So much so that when we were trying to cover her work during her illness I had to involve several staff, such as the breadth of responsibilities she had. It is no over-statement to say that the AJR is the organisation it is today because of Carol's immeasurable contribution.

Carol will always be fondly remembered as an ambassador for the AJR and a tireless advocate for the welfare of our members. She truly embodied the values and ethos of our organisation with her customary kindness and personal interest in the lives of our members. No task was too much as she looked for ways to represent and support those with the greatest needs, always looking ahead to the next project and initiative.

She was also a respected senior member of staff willing to take responsibility for the management of colleagues and projects. For

those of us working in the charity sector, you will be familiar with the barrage of policies, procedures and best practices to which we now need to comply. Although a tall order, Carol embraced this work, helping us become not just compliant, but an agency to which others now turn for guidance in volunteer management.

She was always a unique character and her perseverance to find ways to engage with members during the pandemic was unparalleled, and for which she was recognised at the highest level. The deep concern we all had for our members as we went into that first lockdown was matched by our response, led by Carol, who personally oversaw that we contacted every first generation member, not just once but a series of times to ensure they had sufficient food, medicine, care and contact.

Having worked with her for twenty years, I can safely say that we are the organisation we are today thanks to her devotion to her work and our mission. She was hugely popular and greatly appreciated among the membership.

On a personal level, I have lost a trusted advisor, someone who provided good counsel when I – and I know others also – came to her for help and guidance or a second-opinion, and a can-do attitude. Carol was always full of sage advice using her experience and intuition to be a positive thoughtful influence, constantly seeking new ways to improve and advance us and our activities.

Carol is survived by her husband Nigel, daughters Emma and Michelle and their families, mother Eileen and sister Jane, all of whom are in our thoughts.

Michael Newman



MONICA SCHUBERT

Born: 25 August 1929, Berlin
 Died: 6 October 2021, Regina, Saskatchewan

Monica's early upbringing in Berlin was one of privilege. The family was totally assimilated to German culture and knew nothing of Judaism.

In 1939 Monica and her sister left Berlin on a Kindertransport to a convent school in Belgium. The girls were separated from their mother for over a year and their grandmother had moved to London. In May 1940 Anita and Monica flew on a Red Cross plane to be reunited in London. During the war Monica remained in London: her mother refused to be separated from her daughters again. In 1951 Monica graduated (B.A.) at the University of London and in 1952 she set out for Israel (with seven pieces of luggage). Until then she knew nothing of Judaism. She had never attended Synagogue or a Seder. On the ship she learned that one cannot have milk for coffee after meat. In Jerusalem she visited the first Ulpan and added Hebrew to the list of German, French and English. We were introduced in January 1955 and married on lag ba'omer, in the presence of three Rabbis and seven psychiatrists; we were happily married for 66 years and had four sons, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

In 1961 we returned to England. I was principal psychologist at the Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool and Monica was a schoolteacher in a nearby town. We moved to Regina, Canada and in 1973 Monica returned to university and completed an MA on English translations of Beowulf, adding Anglo-Saxon to her repertoire. In 1978 she went to the University of Saskatchewan and became a lawyer, graduating in 1983 and then working for the Canadian Governments Human Rights Commission. After retirement in 1988 she wrote her memoirs, *Where am I at Home?: A Tale of More Than Two Cities* (available at the Wiener library), translated the memoirs of her Grandfather Julius Kohsen, and wrote extensive memoirs about her travels around the world. Until 2015 she spent some time every year in London, keeping her membership in the AJR. Monica was active in the Regina Jewish community, Library and Bridge club, and is lovingly remembered. She was healthy until the last days of her life. She simply fell asleep.

Josef Schubert

MAP NOW ONLINE

On 16 December the AJR formally launched its newest resource **The UK Holocaust Map** at an online event with **Lord Pickles, Co-Chair of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation – the government body which supports this vital project.**



This online platform, which was previewed in the July edition of the *AJR Journal*, has been developed by AJR, along with Keystage Arts and Heritage and the digital agency Humap.

The website is now online for all to explore. It can be found at www.ukholocaustmap.org.uk. In addition to discovering local sites of Holocaust memory – those places relating to the victims, survivors and refugees of Nazism as well as rescuers, liberators and aid givers – visitors are also encouraged to contribute new content to the map by contacting map@ajr.org.uk with suggestions. Because the site will be constantly updated and improved it is seen as more of an ongoing memory project than a static directory of locations.

Significant sections of the map have already been curated by partner organisations including The Wiener Holocaust Library, the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre and the Jewish History Association of South Wales. The AJR is eager to partner with many other institutions and archives and is actively working with several to continue to populate the map with additional locations, photographs, scanned documents and video testimony.

A key audience for the UK Holocaust Map is the education sector. At the launch event Jenny Carson, Education Officer at the Holocaust Educational Trust, spoke about the Trust's plans to train teachers in the pedagogical approaches to using local sites in their teaching about the Holocaust. Alison Ustun, a teacher at Harlaw Academy in Aberdeen spoke about how she uses sites in her local area to help her students to understand that the history of the Holocaust is very much part of their own history.



Sir Rudolph Bing
 AJR unveiled a plaque in honour of Sir Rudolf Bing at Glyndebourne in August 2016. Sir Rudolf was General Manager of Glyndebourne between 1950 and 1988.
 Born in 1902 in Vienna, Sir Rudolf studied music and art history at the University of Vienna before relocating to Berlin in 1927 where he served as General Manager of opera houses, and later as Darmstadt. In February 1934, at the request of fellow-designer Fritz Quach, Bing negotiated the contracts for European singers to perform at Glyndebourne before arriving there himself in the summer of 1934. He fulfilled the same job a year later when he also worked at the Festival as an assistant producer. The following year, 1936, he took over as General Manager, a job he held until 1938, and took up again in 1945 until he left to become the General Manager of the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1949.

ZOOMS AHEAD

Details of all meetings and the links to join will appear in the e-newsletter each Monday.

Tuesday 4 January @2pm	Merilyn Moos & Miriam David - Debating the Zeitgeist and being Second Generation https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/89273200258
Wednesday 5 January @2pm	Irene Kyffin - Geometric Abstraction: Art at the Forefront of the 60s and 70s https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/87577163779
Thursday 6 January @2pm	Noam Tamir – An elite officer's personal account of Entebbe https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/87818204512
Monday 10 January @10.30am	Online Yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439
Tuesday 11 January @2pm	Philip Heymann, lead Viola player for the Welsh National Opera will perform a mixture of classical and popular tunes https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/81235187394
Tuesday 11th January @2pm	Albert Lester - Exodus 1 https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/87247993075
Wednesday 12 January @2pm	AJR Book Club Discussion (no speaker) - <i>Notes from a Small Island</i> by Bill Bryson https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/82470024329
Monday 17 January @10.30am	Online Yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439
Monday 17 January @2pm	Ruth Schwiening - Survival of a Jewish Family https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88185866017
Tuesday 18 January @2pm	Sharon Carr-Brown - Magistrates and the Judicial System https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83045238806
Wednesday 19 January @2pm	Helen Fry - Spymaster https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88236035800
Thursday 20 January @4pm	Interview with leading historian Sir Richard Evans on the Wannsee Conference https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83338045726
Monday 24 January @10.30am	Online Yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439
Monday 31 January @10.30am	Online Yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE 2022

Monday 24 January 2022, 2pm

Online and (if possible) in person from Belsize Square Synagogue

To book your place please email karin@ajr.org.uk or call the office on **020 8385 3070**

Please confirm if you wish to attend in person or view via live link <https://synagogue.org.uk/services/live/>

WELSH MEMORIAL GOES ONLINE

The Jewish History Association of South Wales has just published a new Holocaust Memorial Website, thanks to the support of the AJR.

The website, www.jhasw.com/holocaust-memorial-tablet, provides a digital and expanded version of the Memorial Tablet that was originally installed on the wall of Cardiff Reform Synagogue in 1954, which

commemorates 102 relatives of synagogue members who perished in the Holocaust. Unlike the tablet, which is static, the digital version is interactive and provides more colour to the lives that are memorialised within it.



South Wales has made the stories of all the people on the Cardiff memorial tablet available online

Published by The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR), a company limited by guarantee.

Registered office: Winston House, 2 Dollis Park, Finchley, London N3 1HF

Registered in England and Wales with charity number: 1149882 and company number: 8220991

Telephone 020 8385 3070 e-mail editorial@ajr.org.uk AssociationofJewishRefugees @TheAJR_

For the latest AJR news, including details of forthcoming events and information about our services, visit www.ajr.org.uk

Printed by FBprinters, 82b Woodside Park Road, London N12 8RY Tel: 020 8458 3220 Email: info@fbprinters.com

The AJR Journal is printed on 100% recycled material and posted out in fully recyclable paper envelopes.